RG104 E-1 Box 137 Jan-Feb 1886

OFFICE OF THE

BOSTON AND COLORADO SMELTING COMPANY,

WORKS AT ARGO, COLORADO,
(NEAR DENVER.)

DENVER, COLORADO, Feb 15th 1886

Daniel M. Fox Esq
Supt Philadelphia Mint

Dear Sir

Your telegram of the 12th as follows "Your shipment 7 sixth "instant at hand, some bars so heavy as not "to be within the working scope of our appa- "ratus. Complaints have been made before on "this point. Hereafter no bars will be "received from your company exceeding "twelve hundred ounces" was duly received.

There was some correspondence on this subject last August. In a letter which James C. Booth Metlt & refiner addressed to you on the 14th day of last August he stated as follows "In response to your "question as to size of bars I state that those "bars can be operated upon without difficulty "whose diagonal on the end of the bar does "not exceed 8 inches. A few received this "morning measured 9 inches on the diagonal"

I am assured that the largest bar we have shipped since last August does not measure diagonally over 8 inches. but we can readily without changing our moulds reduce the diagonal measure to 7½ inches.

To confine the weight of the bar to 1200 ounces would require a considerable outlay on our part for new moulds. and an increase in the cost of making the bars. and also an increase in the risk in shipping. Silver is so bulky that it is never put into the safes of the Express Companies, but is piled up on the floor of the car. We commenced making our bars heavy at the request of the Express Companies, to make it difficult for train robbers to get away with them.

None of these objections to reducing the weight of our bars are so formidable as to prevent a compliance with the directions contained in your telegram. if the necessity exists for such a large reduction in the weight.

But I trust we will not be put to

so much trouble + expense if the difficulty can be obviated in some other way.

Your message says "some bars so heavy as not to be +c" I can guaranty that the heaviest bar we will ship will not be larger than the lightest of the ship-ment of which the complaint was made.

Our bars have ~~almost uniformly~~ weighed over 1900 ounces. If only some of them were inconveniently heavy we can assure you that the weight of all the bars will be, if necessary, considerably below the weight of the lightest of former shipments. But to reduce them to 1200 ounces will be a great inconvenience to us.

We use the same crucible that is used at the Mint, and we are constantly having to melt bars on account of their having "vegetated" too badly. We have never found any difficulty in remelting our silver bars.

You are aware in moulding pure silver that ~~there~~ it is impossible to prevent it from "vegetating" but the protuberance which

is formed in this way is not "cavernous" and it is no more liable to contain any foreign substance than any other part of the bar. This "vegetating" can with care be reduced to the minimum, by allowing as little time as possible after the silver is melted for the absorption of oxygen.

We have been shipping silver in bars of the size we are now shipping for a number of years. No complaints have ever been made except those of last August. To direct now that we must reduce the weight from 1900 to 1200 ounces, when the only complaint that has been made was that some of the bars were too heavy, seems unreasonable

I trust you will reconsider this order. and while we are waiting for further advices from you, we will, in pouring the melted silver, not fill the mould, and thus reduce the size to a considerable extent

Very truly Yours

N. P. Hill

Mgr.

NARA RG104, Entry 1, Box 137

Boston and Colorado Smelting Company,
Denver, Colorado,
February 15, 1886

Daniel M. Fox, Esq.
Supt. Philadelphia Mint

Dear Sir

Your telegram of the 12th as follows "your shipment of sixth
"instant at hand, some bars so heavy as not
"to be within the working scope of our appa-
"ratus. Complaints have been made before on
"this point. Hereafter no bars will be
"received from your company exceeding
"twelve hundred ounces" was duly received.

There was some correspondence on this subject last August. In a letter which James C. Booth Melter & Refiner addressed to you on the 14th day of last August he stated as follows

"In response to your
"question as to size of bars I state that these
"bars can be operated upon without difficulty
"whose diagonal on the end of the bar does
"not exceed 8 inches. A few received this
"morning measured 9 inches on the diagonal."

I am assured that the largest bar we have shipped since last August does not measure diagonally over 8 inches, but we can readily without changing our moulds reduce the diagonal measure to 7 ½ inches.

To confine the weight of the bar to 1200 ounces would require a considerable outlay on our part for new moulds, and are increase in the cost of making the bars, and also an increase in the risk in shipping. Silver is so bulky that it is never put into the safes of the Express Companies, but is piled up on the floor of the car. We commenced making our bars heavy at the request of the Express Companies, to make it difficult for train robbers to get away with them. None of these objections to reducing the weight of our bars are so formidable as to prevent a compliance with the directions contained in your telegram. If the necessity exists for such a large reduction in the weight. But I trust we will not be put to so much trouble & expense if the difficulty can be obviated in some other way. Your message says "<u>some</u> bars so <u>heavy</u> as not to be &c" I can guarantee that the heaviest bar we will ship will not be larger than the lightest of the shipment of which the complaint was made. Many of our bars have ~~almost uniformly~~ weighed over 1900 ounces. If only some of them were inconveniently heavy we can assure you that the weight of all the bars will be, if necessary, considerably below the weight of the lightest of former shipments, but to reduce them to 1200 ounces will be a great inconvenience to us.

We use the same crucible that is used at the Mint, and we are constantly having to remelt bars on account of their having "regulated" too badly. We have never found any difficulty in remelting our silver bars.

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